

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1530 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5456
(202) 225-5822 (Fax)

660 CENTRAL AVENUE
DOVER, NH 03820
(603) 285-4300



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2017

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
READINESS
MILITARY PERSONNEL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
WORKFORCE PROTECTION
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

www.shea-porter.house.gov

Mr. Corey Wilson
Acting Chief Business Officer
Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to you about Northeast Passage's (NEP) efforts to enter into a Veterans Choice Program provider agreement with the Manchester VA Medical Center (VAMC) to provide recreational therapy services to veterans. As you may know, NEP previously held a fee-for-service contract with the VAMC through the Non-VA Care Coordination (NVCC) program. I strongly support NEP's efforts to continue serving veterans using its PATH model.

According to NEP, the PATH model uses recreation as a tool to improve veterans' health. NEP reports that the PATH recreational therapy program results in enhanced quality of life and healthier lifestyles for those exposed to the treatment. NEP states that, "Clients have shown tangible and measurable gains such as increased functional fitness, weight loss, lowered blood pressure and blood sugar, decreased need for medications, and engagement with community. In addition to physical advances, clients have also shown emotional gains such as increased happiness, confidence, self-acceptance, patience and social connectedness."

NEP believes that the PATH program could continue to demonstrate improvements in health care outcomes and reductions in the cost of care. NEP indicates that the veterans who have participated in the PATH program in the past have shown measurable improvements in combatting physical disabilities, chronic health conditions, and mental health disorders.

I wish to thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of NEP's efforts to enter into a provider agreement with the Manchester VAMC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Shea-Porter".

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress